

Licton Springs Habitat Restoration Phase II

Background



In 2000, voters approved the \$198.2 million Pro Parks Levy to fund more than 100 projects throughout the city over the next eight years. Projects include improvements to athletic fields, playgrounds, trails and community centers and parks. The Pro Parks Levy also includes an Opportunity Fund for community-generated development and acquisition projects. The Friends of Licton Springs Park were awarded \$100,000 from the Pro Parks Opportunity Fund to improve Licton Springs Park. These funds will be used to:

- Remove invasive plants and revegetate with native plants following the Licton Springs Park Vegetation Management Plan
- Replace the “Iron Spring” walkway with a structure that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards



Anticipated Impacts/Construction Schedule

Revegetation work will begin in the fall of 2003. The Iron Spring walkway will be replaced in the summer of 2004. Only the Iron Spring portion of the park will be closed. The play area will remain open throughout all revegetation work and walkway construction. Adjacent parking, traffic, and noise may be adversely impacted during walkway construction.

Licton Springs Park is an irregularly-shaped rectangle, a 7.6-acre park located south of N. 97th Street between Ashworth Avenue North and Densmore Avenue North. The park is two blocks west of the North Seattle Community College complex and two blocks north of the Seattle School District Wilson Pacific School.

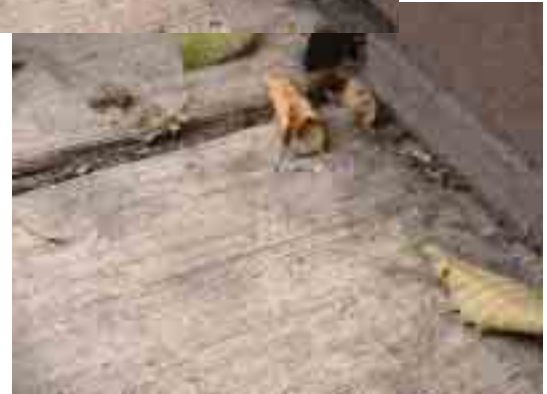


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Walkway Materials

Durable Quality

The walkway adjacent to the Iron Spring is the last of three interior walkways to be replaced in Licton Springs Park. The walkways are built using materials and techniques that minimize impact on Licton Springs Park, a Class B Riparian Corridor.



Careful Craftsmanship

- Walkway will use material selected for previous walkway upgrades in Licton Springs Park.
- Beams made of recycled Douglas Fir logs salvaged from Lake Union with an expected 25-50 year life.
- Decking material is steel pans with colored concrete.
- Handrails, where needed, will be cedar and steel.
- Plastic lumber will be used as trim and posts.
- No pressure treated lumber will be used.
- Construction will replace only existing structures
- Minimal cut and fill expected
- Construction will occur only during dry season to minimize wetland impacts



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Walkway Restoration Upgrade Deteriorating Facilities

Universal Access

The Iron Spring is a unique park feature that should be accessible to all park users. Some pathway improvements must be made in order for the Iron Springs walkway to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.



New Users and Old

The grading goals need to comply with ADA regulations to the extent feasible, including creation of rest areas at the top, bottom and at appropriate intervals along slopes or ramps at 50-foot intervals.

Open Access to Parks

Every Park upgrade project attempts to bring more of the unique features of each park into the reach of more of the community. The stairs leading to the creek crossings are by far the greatest barriers to ADA access in the park. The 15-20% slopes and their corresponding stairs eliminate any chance for disabled visitors to access the creek and wetland area. The pathway system is asphalt, 25 years old and generally in poor condition because of root heaving from nearby trees and shrubs. If funds are available after the Iron Springs walkway is completed, some of these accessibility issues may be addressed.

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Continuing Upgrades Comfort Station



Playground



Seattle Parks has focused a great deal of attention to Licton Springs Park in the past five years: the play area has been upgraded, a Vegetative Management Plan has guided invasive plant removal and revegetation, and the first of three timber walkways that cross the interior stream have been replaced. The Licton shelterhouse/comfort station will also be upgraded before the summer of 2004.



Walkways

The second walkway that crosses the stream will be replaced by the Seattle Conservation Corps in 2003 with Community Development Block Grant funding. The third and final interior walkway in Licton Springs Park will be replaced with this project.

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Connecting to History

Medicinal Waters



Native Americans



Licton Springs served as a gathering place for Native Americans who found medicinal and spiritual value from two springs in the park: the magnesium mineral waters in the southeast portion of the site and the reddish-brown colored mud in the center – the “Iron Spring.” The name "Licton" may be related to the Lushootseed word for “paint.”



Pioneers

The springs were valued by early European settlers as well. A.A. Denny built a weekend retreat cabin on the site and working horse teams were driven to the springs and allowed to stand in knee-deep in the healing mud. A mineral water spa with thermal baths was built in the late 1920s but closed by the City in the 1930s when the natural depression of the site allowed sewage waters to frequently back up into the spring pools. The southern magnesium spring was sealed and the north Iron Spring was plugged to a small trickle. The property was assembled and developed into a park in the 1970s. All that remains of the springs is a dribble from a concrete basin beside one of the pathway that empties into the City's storm sewer system.

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Vegetative Management Plan Native Plant Restoration



Wetland Stewardship



One quarter of the Pro Parks Opportunity Funds will be allocated to fund assistance to community volunteer work parties. The revegetation work will be guided by priorities identified in the Licton Springs Park Vegetation Management Plan.

Meet your neighbors!

Join supervised work parties on the second Saturday of each month 10-2P.M. Tools and snacks provided. For more information contact the

Friends of Licton Springs Park
Liz Kearns (206)525-5243

